

COUNCIL BRIEFS

April 8, 2016

Congratulations to Brendon Coen and Jeremiah Gagnon: On April 6, 2016, the Exchange Club held its annual awards program and recognized two outstanding public safety individuals. Firefighter Brendon Coen was selected as the Firefighter of the Year for his off-duty rescue of two people involved in a car accident in which the car was on fire. Officer Jeremiah Gagnon was selected as the Police Officer of the Year for his numerous letters of appreciation from citizens, as well as the police department's excellence in police work awards. He received two Unit Citations awards, two Merit Awards and three Departmental Citations.

State issues Fire Department Paramedic Certification: On March 31, 2016, the state Department of Public Health issued the Fire Department the Certificate of Operation to provide Advance Life Support Services/Paramedic Services to the Town of West Hartford and State of Connecticut. The Fire Department will begin paramedic services as soon as the regional credentialing process is complete which is anticipated to be early-to-mid summer. There are 18 firefighters who are certified paramedics. AMR will continue to provide ambulance transportation service.

National Public Health Week, April 4-10: The theme of the American Public Health Association's National Public Health Week is Generation Public Health: an initiative to make America the healthiest nation in one generation by 2030. Affordable health care, social justice, livable wages, access to healthy food, and protecting the environment are key to maintaining a safe and healthy future.

Locally, the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District supports this mission by protecting the communities of West Hartford and Bloomfield from communicable diseases, maintaining safe water, sewage and sanitation systems, as well as a restaurant inspection program to prevent foodborne illnesses. The District offers low cost,

routine immunizations for adults and children over age 5, senior wellness clinics and a disaster emergency response system.

Absentee ballots available for April 26

primary: In order to vote in the Presidential Primary, you must be a Registered Democrat or Republican. If you are Unaffiliated, you have until noon on Monday, April 25th to register with either Party.

If you will be out of town or not able to make it to the polls on April 26th due to illness, disability, military service, election duties or religious reasons, you are eligible to vote by absentee ballot.

Applications may be picked up in the clerk's office or from the Town Clerk's website, www.westhartfordct.gov/townclerk.

One Book, One Town celebration: West Hartford's first One Book, One Town initiative will culminate on Thursday, April 21, 6:30PM-8:00 PM, with inspirational speakers and interactive activities. The free event will be held in the Town Hall Auditorium.

West Hartford's special event will feature keynote speaker Christine Ieronimo, Connecticut author of *A Thirst for Home: A Story of Water Across the World*, emcee Brad Drazen, news anchor at NBC Connecticut, sports speaker Steve Boyle, founder of 2-4-1 Sports (Life's 2 Short 4 Just 1 Sport), and Quest students from West Hartford Public Schools who will give their perspectives on *Outcasts United*, this year's featured book. Go to www.WestHartfordCT.gov/1Book1Town for more information.

Reminder: Spring Yard Waste collection

begins: The first round of curbside pickup of yard waste begins next week, April 11-15. For more information, visit the DPW website, WestHartfordCT.gov/PublicWorks.

Ronald F. Van Winkle
Town Manager